

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Texas
FILED

JUL 01 2010

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David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CRIMINAL No.

H-10-459

**UNSEALED
PER ARREST**

JOSE FUENTES
PATRICIA HOLGUIN
MAURICIO MERCADO

INDICTMENT

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

Count One

[Conspiracy – 8 U.S.C. §1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I)]

Beginning from in or about January, 2003 until on or about November 29,
2006 within the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendants,

JOSE FUENTES

PATRICIA HOLGUIN

MAURICIO MERCADO

did knowingly combine, conspire, confederate and agree, with each other and with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit an offense against the United States, that is: to transport and harbor illegal aliens within the United States, in any manner whatsoever, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that such aliens had entered the United States illegally; in violation of Title 8, United States Code Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i).

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

1. Smuggled aliens are brought to areas in Mexico by alien smugglers who intend upon bringing them illegally into the United States.
2. Those smuggled aliens are taken to staging areas south of the United States border.
3. The smuggled aliens are then guided across the border into the United States where they are taken to staging areas north of the United States border.
4. The smuggled aliens are transported to locations south of various check points where they are guided on foot to locations north of the Border Patrol check point.
5. The smuggled aliens are transported to Houston, Texas where they are held until their relatives and/or friends pay the alien smugglers a fee for their release or the alien smugglers make contact with the relatives

and/or friends pay the fees necessary for the release of the smuggled aliens.

6. After the smuggling fees are paid, arrangements are made for the delivery of the smuggled aliens with their friends and/or relatives in various locations throughout the United States. If the final destination is a city other than Houston, Texas, an additional fee is incurred for the aliens' transportation.

Overt Acts

In furtherance of the conspiracy described herein, one or more of the co-conspirators committed, in the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere, one or more of the following overt acts:

1. Beginning January, 2003, [redacted] smuggled illegal aliens into the United States for money. To this end, he formed two transportation companies, Transportes Junior's and Transporte Sabrina, to facilitate his illegal alien transportation operation.
2. [redacted] created or caused to be created trip manifests, which showed the names of the smuggled aliens and their respective debts, under the name of Transportes Junior's which showed that [redacted] had been in the transportation business beginning since approximately January, 2003.

3. created or caused to be created ledgers, referred to as “pollo lists,” which contained the names of smuggled aliens who were harbored at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081.
4. Sometime before November 6, 2006

 went to work for as guards in his illegal alien transportation operation.
5. Sometime before November 6, 2006 Jose Fuentes, Patricia Holguin, and Mauricio Mercado went to work for as drivers in his illegal alien transportation operation.
6. On or about November 6, 2006, at instruction, three unknown co-conspirators delivered illegal aliens to 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D-#116, Houston, Texas 77081. The load of smuggled aliens included Abelardo Sagastume. Hector LNU, an illegal alien, had already been delivered to 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081, when Sagastume arrived.
7. Upon arrival on or about November 6, 2006

 opened the warehouse overhead garage door and allowed the illegal aliens to enter the warehouse.

 gave the illegal aliens instructions to

undress completely with the exception of underwear; to not talk, make noise, or wander in the hallways.

8. On or about November 7, 2006

informed the illegal aliens there was a fire in the warehouse. Shortly thereafter,

loaded the illegal aliens in two vans and removed the aliens from the warehouse due to the fire.

9. On or about November 7, 2006, upon returning to the warehouse after the fire, called whom he referred to as to inform him of the fire incident. went to the warehouse to determine what had occurred.

told him that the illegal aliens had set the fire in an attempt to escape from the warehouse.

10. ordered the aliens beaten until they revealed who had set the fire. began a series of beatings of the illegal aliens which lasted for several days. During this time frame, it was determined that Hector LNU was responsible for the fire and it was also determined that Abelardo Sagastume and Hector LNU had plotted to kill in an attempt to escape from the warehouse. Once their identities were revealed,

beat Abelardo Sagastume
and Hector LNU as punishment.

11. beat Abelardo
Sagastume and Hector LNU to death at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building
D,#116, Houston, Texas 77081.
12. caused the bodies of Abelardo Sagastume and Hector LNU to
be moved from 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D,#116, Houston,
Texas 77081 to a vacant lot in Fort Bend County, Texas, where the
aforementioned bodies were discovered on or about November 15,
2006.
13. After the bodies were discovered, caused to be removed items
from his house to include a computer, "pollo lists", approximately
\$36,000 in U.S. currency, and firearms.
14. On or about the day the bodies were discovered, told a family
member to watch the news because he and others had beaten men at
the warehouse and that he was in a lot of trouble.

All in violation of Title 8, United States Code,Section1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I).

Count Two

**[Harboring-8 USC, 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), and
1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(II), 1324(a)(1)(B)(iv)]**

On or about November 6, 2006, in the Houston Division of the Southern
District of Texas,

defendants herein, each aiding and abetting one another, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that a certain alien, namely, Abelardo Sagastume, had come to, entered and remained in the United States in violation of law, did conceal, harbor and shield from detection, and attempt to conceal, harbor and shield from detection, Abelardo Sagastume at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas, 77081, and did so for the purpose of private financial gain.

The death of Abelardo Sagastume resulted during and in relation to the above described offense.

In violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(II), 1324(a)(1)(B)(iv).

Count Three

**[Harboring-8 USC, 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), and
1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(II), 1324(a)(1)(B)(iv)]**

On or about November 6, 2006, in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas,

defendants herein, each aiding and abetting one another, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that a certain alien, namely, Hector LNU, had come to, entered and remained in the United States in violation of law, did conceal, harbor and shield from detection, and attempt to conceal, harbor and shield from detection, Hector LNU at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081, and did so for the purpose of private financial gain.

The death of Hector LNU resulted during and in relation to the above described offense.

In violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(II), 1324(a)(1)(B)(iv).

Count Four
[Conspiracy to Launder Funds – 18 U.S.C. §1956(h)]

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The grand jury adopts, re-alleges, and incorporates herein the allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Indictment.

B. THE CONSPIRACY AND ITS OBJECTS

2. Beginning on or about January, 2003, and continuing at least through December, 2006,

Defendant herein, did knowingly combine, conspire, confederate and agree with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to conduct financial transactions that involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, acts

chargeable as transporting aliens under Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), and acts chargeable as harboring an alien under Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), knowing that the property involved in said financial transactions represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, with the intent to promote the carrying on of the specified unlawful activity (in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(A)(i)), and knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, or the control of the proceeds of the specified unlawful activity (in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(ii)), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

C. THE MANNER AND THE MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

3. The conspirators would and did operate businesses known as Transporte Sabrina and Transportes Junior's, at times from a hotel room in Houston, Texas, and at other times from a storefront located at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081.

4. The conspirators would and did harbor aliens in and transport aliens from the business locations, including the storefront at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081.

5. The conspirators would and did place the lease for the storefront located at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081 in a nominee name.

6. The conspirators would and did conduct business transactions for Transportes Junior's almost exclusively in cash or money orders.

7. The conspirators would and did falsify business records for Transportes Junior's.

8. The conspirators would and did convert cash to money orders purchased in a nominee name to make lease payments on the storefront at 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081.

D. OVERT ACTS

In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere:

(a) on or about January 23, 2003, accepted \$3,450.00 in United States currency for transporting aliens within the United States.

(b) on or about March 16, 2003, an unindicted co-conspirator collected \$6,200.00 in United States currency for transporting aliens within the United States.

(c) on or about March 16, 2003, paid an unindicted co-conspirator \$1,200.00 in United States currency for transporting aliens within the United States.

(d) on or about April 4, 2005, an unindicted co-conspirator entered a lease agreement for 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081.

(e) on or about April 5, 2005, paid an unindicted co-conspirator \$1,000.00 in United States currency for placing the lease for 7315 Ashcroft Drive, Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081 in the name of the unindicted co-conspirator.

(f) on or about or about April 8, 2005, an unindicted co-conspirator collected \$11,350.00 in United States currency for transporting aliens within the United States.

(g) on or about April 8, 2005, paid JOSE FUENTES \$1,300.00 in United States currency for transporting aliens within the United States.

(h) on or about November 11, 2005, an unindicted co-conspirator collected \$6,820.00 in United States currency for transporting aliens within the United States.

(i) on or about November 11, 2005, paid an unindicted co-conspirator \$1,200.00 in United States currency for transporting aliens within the United States.

(j) on or about June 29, 2006, converted \$1,400.00 in United States currency into two money orders in the name

of an unindicted co-conspirator to make a lease payment on 7315 Ashcroft Drive,
Building D, #116, Houston, Texas 77081.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

A TRUE ~~BILL~~

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE

FOREPERSON

JOSE ANGEL MORENO
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By:


RUBEN R. PEREZ

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